it is not feasible to quantify the exact amount.

(b) Yes Sir. It is difficult to withdraw the halts once provided. However, continuance of the halt is reviewed from time to time.

Re cruitment in Railways

3691. PROF. SAURIN BATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have decided to recruit 20000 persons less out of an estimated 50000 persons recruited each year, during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, what are the reasons tor such a decision ; and

(c) whether Government would review the decision, considering its adverse effect on the country's employment potential ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Non-implementation of Exlakhi-Balurghat rail link

3692. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government arc of the hardships of the people of Balurghat due to the non-implementation of Exlakhi-Balurghat rail link ; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to begin work during 1992-93 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This work remains on the list of sanctioned works. Resumption of works on the project would depend upon the availability of resources in the coming years.

Case of coal labourers of Loco Shed, Trichy

3693. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state ;

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India has given its verdict in Writ Petition number 838 of 1988 dated, 14th December, 1988 regarding the case of coal labourers of Loco Shed, Trichy in Southern Railway ;

(b) if so, the details of the Judgement ; and

(c) the action taken by Government to implement the orders of the Supreme Court ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Supreme Court in their judgement directed the Central Government to take appropriate action under Section 10 of the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act in the matter of prohibiting the employment of con tract labour in the work of loading and unloading in the Southern Rail way within six months. It was also slated in the judgement that it was open to the Railway Administration to take a decision to abolish contract labour on its own without waiting for the decision of the Central Govern ment. The Supreme Court also directed that the services of workmen involved should not be terminated in the meantime.

(c) The Railway AdministratioH decided not to abolish the contract